Claims:

- 1. A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising a catalyst component containing copper oxide, at least one zeolite member selected from the group consisting of ZSM-5 and zeolite β , and an oxide of at least one element selected from the group consisting of magnesium and calcium.
- A catalyst according to claim 1, wherein an amount
 of the zeolite member is in the range of 0.1 1 part by weight
 based on 1 part by weight of the copper oxide.
 - 3. Acatalyst according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an amount of the copper oxide is in the range of 3 14 g, and an amount of the zeolite member is in the range of 50 300 g, based on 1 liter of a refractory three dimensional structure.
- A process for purifying an exhaust gas, which comprises exposing an exhaust gas purifying catalyst set forth
 in any of claim 1 3 to the exhaust gas, wherein a molar ratio of hydrocarbon to nitrogen oxides is 1 20:1.
 - 5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the exhaust gas is from a diesel engine.

25

15